

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 446

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Rob Ponder on his receipt of the Youth Leadership Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause in their deliberations to salute those young citizens who, through their remarkable efforts, have distinguished themselves as emerging community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Rob Ponder is one such estimable young man who was recently honored with the Youth Leadership Award from Leadership Blount; and

WHEREAS, created in 2012, the Leadership Blount Youth Leadership Award honors an outstanding student-leader in the Blount County community; and

WHEREAS, the son of David and Kelly Ponder, Rob is in his final year of home school and is taking his third college-level course through Maryville College; and

WHEREAS, for more than five years, Rob Ponder has been serving his fellow citizens in the Blount County community and beyond; and

WHEREAS, as an active member of the Blount County Rescue Squad, Rob has been trained in many areas of emergency response, including international certification for Search and Rescue as a NASAR SARTECH 2, Wilderness First Responder training, Community Emergency Response Team Training instructor for the squad, and is soon to be nationally certified and licensed to treat patients as a first responder; and

WHEREAS, the young Mr. Ponder is additionally trained in vehicle rescue and rope rescue operations and uses his HAM Radio Operator license to assist the leadership at the Blount County Rescue Squad with emergency radio technology; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his role at the Blount County Rescue Squad, Rob is a medical volunteer with the Red Cross Knoxville Chapter First Aid Station Team, an alumni of the National Flight Academy, and an Air Force Association (AFA) award recipient; and

WHEREAS, Rob Ponder began serving as a volunteer in November 2008, when he became a cadet member of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), which is the official auxiliary of the United States Air Force and supports America's communities with emergency/disaster relief services, search and rescue efforts, humanitarian services, and Air Force Support; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure with CAP, Rob has had several confirmed search and rescue finds; and

WHEREAS, Rob Ponder's noteworthy achievement is a tremendous source of pride for his family, friends, and community; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon the dedication of young people like Mr. Ponder who use their considerable talents and resources to serve other; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Rob Ponder for his receipt of the Youth Leadership Award from Leadership Blount, recognize his outstanding record of volunteer service, and extend to him our best wishes for continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.